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MINUTES

OF SOME LATE

CONVERSATIONS

BETWEEN THE

Rev. Meſſrs. *WESLEY*,

AND OTHERS.

BRISTOL:

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M.DCC.LXXXVI.

BRITISH MUSEUM
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MINUTES, &c.

BRISTOL, July 25, 1786.

.....

QUEST. 1. WHAT Preachers are *admitted* this Year?

ANSW. In *Great-Britain*: Alexander Suter, Joſeph Jerom, James Thom, William Hoſkins. In *Ireland*, William Hammet, James M'Donald. In *America*, Iſaac Smith, John Smith, Elijah Ellis, John Robertſon, Thomas Jackſon, Henry Jones, William Jeſſop, James Riggin, Wilſon Lee, Tho. Ware, John Fidler.

Q. 2. Who *remain on trial?*

A. In *Great-Britain*, Thomas Bartholomew, Edward Burbeck, John Ogylvie, William Palmer, Charles Kyte, Benjamin Pearſe, Timothy Crowther, Jonathan Crowther, John Muckarſy, William Butterfield, Richard Corniſh, William Holmes, James Ridell, Peter Walker, Charles Bland, Robert Gamble, John Smith, Alexander Kilham, William Fiſh, John Ramſhaw, William Hunter, Junr. William Blagborne, Henry Robbins. In *Ireland*, John Dinnen, Thomas Verner. In *America*, M. Whitaker, H. Bingham, S. Johnſon, Thomas Williamſon, J. Hartley, H. Hull, William Steens, J. Maſton, E. Cooper, L. Roſs, Robert Sparks, J. Bruſh, Robert Ayres, G. Thompſon, J. Paup, J. M'Claſkey, Robert Cann, S. Dicken, S. Pyle.

Q. 3.

Q. 3. Who are *admitted on trial?*

A. In *Great-Britain*, James Gore, John Reynolds, Richard Phillips, Wm. Bramwell, James Byrom, John Townſend, Geo. Baldwin, Theoph. Leſſey, Tho. Jones, James Evans, William Stephens, Thomas Roberts, William Heath, Thomas Smith, William Thoreſby, John Robotham, James Williams, George Highfield, John Barret, John Tregortha, John Atkins, John Beaumont, Thomas Gill, Jonathan Edmonſon, Duncan Kay, Richard Thorſeby, Abraham Moſeley, John De Queataville, Michael Griffiths. In *Ireland*, Samuel Bates, Tho. Owens, David Gordon, Francis Frazier, Thomas Seward, John Harper, John Gillis, Samuel Moorhead, John Grace, William Cowen. In *America*, Sihon Smith, J. Maſon, R. Johnſon Miller, M. Moore, Charles Hardy, Daniel Aſbury, Caleb Maxcy, John Steward, H. Vanover, T. Burns, Micaiah Tracy, Elijah Lumſdon, Newman Spain, J. Lurton, William Hudſon, John Jarrell, William Hervey, Benjamin Ogdon, J. Simmons, Moſes Hurley, J. Merrick, S. Talbot, L. Matthews, M. Lard.

Q. 4. Who *deſiſt* from travelling?

A. In *Great-Britain*, Philip Hardcaſtle, William Adamſon.--John Ingham, William Church, Michael Moorhouſe. In *Ireland*,---George Dice, Thomas Halliday. In *America*, James Hinton, Edward Dromgoole, William Glendenning, William Ringold.

Q. 5. Who has *died* this year?

A. John Fletcher, a Pattern of all holineſs, ſcarce to be paralleled in a century; and Jn. Peacock, young in years, but old in grace; a pattern of all holineſs, full of faith and love, and zeal for God.

Q. 6. Are there any objections to any of our Preachers?

A. They were examined one by one.

Q. 7. How are the preachers *ſtationed* this year?

A. As follows:

John Broadbent travels with Mr. Weſley.

1. *London*,	John Weſley, Charles Weſley, James Creighton, Sam. Bradburn, Benjamin Rhodes, Jeremiah Brettell:—Tho. Rankin, John Atlay, and George Whitfield, ſupernumeraries.
2. *Suſſex*,	William Boothby, John Reynolds, James Byron.
3. *Kent*,	George Shadford, Tho. Wride, William Bramwell, James Gore.
4. *Colcheſter*.	Joſeph Algar, Charles Bland.
5. *Norwich*,	Jaſ. Robinſon, R. Empringham, Tho. Shaw, Abraham Moſeley, Robert Gamble.
6. *Lynn*,	William Palmer, John Muckarſey, John Gualtier.
7. *Bedford*,	Barnabas Thomas, Wm. Horner.
8. *Northampton*,	Joſeph Peſcod, Michael Griffiths.
9. *Oxfordſhire*,	Joſeph Harper, Samuel Edwards, John Robotham.
10. *Gloceſterſhire*,	James Hall, Robert Hopkins, William Stephens.
11. *Sarum*,	Wm. Aſhman, Wm. Butterfield, Charles Kyte.
12. *Bradford*,	John Maſon, Simon Day, Wm. Hoſkins, John King.
13. *Briſtol*,	John Valton, Chriſtopher Watkins, John Pritchard, Thomas Tennant.
14. *Taunton*,	George Wadſworth, John Pool.
15. *Tiverton*,	Joſeph Jerom, Peter Walker.
16. *Plymouth*,	William Myles, Charles Bond, Timothy Crowther.

17. *St. Auſtle*,

17. *St. Auſtle,* John Moon, John Cricket, John Townſend.
18. *Redruth,* Francis Wrigley, Jonathan Cuſſens, Joſeph Sutcliffe.
19. *St. Ives,* George Button, Richard Corniſh, Theophilus Leſſey.
20. *Pembroke,* Joſeph Cole, John Tregortha, James Evans.
21. *Glamorganſh.* William Holmes, George Baldwin.
22. *Brecon,* William Saunders, Tho. Jones.
23. *Birmingham,* Andrew Blair, John Murlin, Duncan Wright:--John Brettel, ſupernumerary.
24. *Borſlem,* Thomas Warwick, Tho. Corbet.
25. *Macclesfield,* George Story, Wm. Thoreſby.
26. *Mancheſter,* William Thompſon, William Eels, Thomas Smith.
27. *Stockport,* Robert Roberts, Duncan Kay.
28. *Cheſter,* Richard Rodda, Thomas Briſco, John Beaumont.
29. *Liverpool,* Charles Boon, Chriſt. Hopper, James Williams.
30. *Bolton,* Jeremiah Robertſhaw, Thomas Lee.
31. *Coln,* Edward Jackſon, Samuel Bardeſley, James Ridel.
32. *Leiceſter,* John Eaſton, Robert Hayward, Thomas Gill.
33. *Nottingham,* Jonathan Hern, James Bogie, William Heath.
34. *Derby,* Thomas Carlill, Robert Scot.
35. *Sheffield,* Alexander Mather, George Gibbon, Thomas Tatterſhall.
36. *Grimſby,* Launcelot Harriſon, James Ray.
37. *Horncaſtle,* Thomas Longley, John Barret, Richard Thoreſby.

38. *Gainſborough,*

38. *Gainſborough*, William Dufton, George Mowat, Thomas Ellis, Alexander Kilham.
39. *Epworth*, James Watſon, John Fenwick, Jonathan Edmondſon.
40. *Leeds*, Thomas Taylor, John Shaw, George Snowden.
41. *Birſtal*, John Goodwin, John Wittam.
42. *Dewſbury*, Parſon Greenwood, Jonathan Parkin.
43. *Huddersfield*, John Booth, John Croſby.
44. *Hallifax*, John Allen, Alexander Suter.
45. *Bradforth*, William Collins, Samuel Hodgſon :—Thomas Johnſon, ſupernumerary.
46. *Kighley*, Joſeph Bradford, John Beanland.
47. *Whitehaven*, John Peacock, James Chriſtie.
48. *Iſle of Man*, John Crook, John Ogylvie, Jonathan Crowther, John Ramſhaw.
49. *York*, Thomas Rutherford, Samuel Botts, George Highfield.
50. *Pocklington*, Robert Swan, George Holder.
51. *Hull*, Joſeph Benſon, John Barber.
52. *Scarborough*, Peter Mill, Robert Coſterdine. William Fiſh.
53. *Whitby*, Iſaac Brown, Thomas Dixon.
54. *Thirſk*, William Simpſon, William Hunter, Junr. Henry Robbins.
55. *Yarm*, Joſeph Thompſon, Tho. Broadbent.
56. *The Dales*, James Thom, John Atkins, J. Smith.
57. *Sunderland*, James Wood, Wm. Thom.
58. *Newcaſtle*, Andrew Inglis, Joſeph Saunderſon, William Percival.

59. *Berwick*,

59.	*Berwick,*	William Hunter, Senr. Zechariah Udall, Matthew Lum.
60.	*Edinburgh,*	John Pawſon, Charles Atmore.
61.	*Ayr,*	Duncan M'Allum.
62.	*Dundee,*	Thomas Hanby, Robert Johnſon, William Blagborne.
63.	*Aberdeen,*	Joſeph Taylor, Richard Watkinſon.
64.	*Inverneſs,*	Joſhua Kighley, Thomas Bartholomew, Edward Burbeck.
65.	*Jerſey,*	Rob. Carr Brackenbury, Adam Clark.
66.	*Guernſey,*	John De Queataville.
67.	*Dublin,*	James Rogers, Henry Moore.
68.	*Waterford,*	George Brown, David Gordon.
69.	*Cork,*	Jonath. Brown, Matthias Joyce, John Dinnen.
70.	*Limerick,*	Daniel Jackſon, Thomas Seaward.
71.	*Caſtlebar,*	Nehemiah Price, Wm. M'Cornock.
72.	*Athlone,*	Lawrence Kane, John Miller, John Mealy, Supernumerary.
73.	*Longford,*	Thomas Davis, James M' Donnald, John Bredin, Invalid.
74.	*Sligo,*	James Jordan. Francis Frazier.
75.	*Ballyconnel,*	Joſeph Armſtrong, James Rennick, Thomas Owens.
76.	*Clones,*	William Green, Thomas Hetherington, John Harper.
77.	*Iniſkillen,*	Samuel Mitchell, Thomas Verner, John Gillis.
78.	*Ballyſhannon,*	Thomas Barbor, Rich. Condy.
79.	*Omagh,*	John Price, Samuel Moorhead.
80.	*Charlemount,*	Hugh Moor, Guſtavus Armſtrong.
81.	*Newry,*	John Kerr, Robert Bridge.
82.	*Londonderry,*	John Leech, Thomas Roberts.

83. *Coleraine*, Walter Griffiths, Wm. Weſt, Wm. Cowen.
84. *Belfaſt*, Robert Armſtrong, John Howe, John Grace.
85. *Liſburn*, Robert Lindſay, Samuel Bates, Benjamin Pearſe.

AMERICA.

Superintendents, Thomas Coke, Francis Aſbury.

		Elders.
Georgia,	Tho. Humphreys, J. Major.	J. Foſter.
Broad River,	S. Johnſon.	
Charleſton	J. Smith.	Hen. Willis.
Santee,	Richard Swift,	Bev. Allen.
Pee Dee,	J. Maſton, H. Hull.	
Saliſbury,	Tho. Williamſon, H. Bingham,	Reub. Ellis.
Yeadkin,	R. J. Miller, J. Maſon	
Holſtein,	M. Whitaker, M. Moor.	
Guildford,	J. Baldwin,	J. O'Kelley.
Halifax,	E. Morris, C. Hardy,	
Mecklenburg,	J. Eaſter, H. Jones.	
New-Hope,	W. Partridge,	Rich. Ivey.
Tar River,	T. Anderſon, M. Tracey,	
Roan-Oak,	T. Bowen, W. Steens,	
Caſwell,	S. Smith.	
Bertie,	T. Jackſon, J. Freeman,	Phil. Bruce.
Camden and Banks,	J. Robertſon, John Steward,	
Portſmouth,	T. Burns.	

Brunſwick,

Brunſwick,	P. Cox, J. Gibbons, H. Meritt,	ELDERS.
Suſſex,	S. Pyle, L. Matthews,	F. Poythreſs.
Amelia,	E. Ellis, D. Aſbury.	
Williamſb.	Levin Roſs,	
Orange,	William Dameron, E. Lumſdon,	Tho. Chew.
Bedford,	W. Cannan, H. Vanover, N. Spain,	
Hanover,	Ananias Hudſon.	
Alleghany,	G. Thompſon, A. Edwards, M. Lard,	Enoch
Redſtone,	J. Smith, R. Ayres, S. Dickens.	Mattſon
Weſtmoreland	L. Green, J. Paup,	
Fairfax,	R. Owens, J. Fidler,	Nelſon Reed
Berkeley,	W. Waters, W. Hervey.	
Kent,	J. Lee, S. Talbot,	
Talbot,	J. White, W. Lee,	R. Whatcoat
Dover,	Ira Ellis, I. Moore.	
Caroline,	W. Jeſſop, M. Hurley, J. Jarrell,	J. Haggerty
Dorſet,	S. Dudley, J. Everitt.	
Somerſet,	J. Riggin, J. Merrick,	
Annameſſex,	W. Thomas,	Tho. Foſter
Northampton,	T. Curtis.	
Philadelphia,	H. Ogburn, P. Moriarty,	Caleb Boyer
Little York, Juniata,	Mathew Greentree.	
Trenton,	R. Sparks, R. Can,	
Weſt Jerſey,	J. Bruſh, J. Simmons, J. Lurton.	T. Vaſey

Eaſt-Jerſey,

East Jerſey,	J. M'Claſky, E. Cooper,	Elders.
Newark,	Robert Cloud,	J. Tunnell
New-York,	J. Dickens,	
Long-Iſland,	Thomas Ware.	
Baltimore,	W. Hickſon, A. Cloud	Wm. Gill
Frederick,	M. Ellis, J. Cromwell,	Ign. Pigman
Calvert,	Jonathan Forreſt.	
Kentucky,	B. Ogdon.	James Haw
Newbern,		
New-River,	J. Hartley, C. Maxcy.	Le Roy Cole
Wilmington,		
Antigua,		J. Baxter
		Wm. Warrenner
Nova Scotia,	W. Black, J. Mann.	F. Garretſon
		J. Cromwell
Newfoundland	John M'Geary.	John Clark
		W. Hammet

Q 7. How many Wives are to be provided for?

A. Seventy-five.

Q. How many of theſe are to be provided for by the Circuits.

A. Fifty-ſeven: namely,

1	London,	S. Brettell, Boothby
2	Glouceſterſhire,	S. Hall
3	Bradford,	S. Green
4	Briſtol,	S. Hopkins 6l: Dixon 6l: Day, Algar
5	Devon and Taunton,	S. Poole
6	Plymouth,	S. Myles
7	St. Auſtle,	S. Moon, 6l.
8	Redruth,	S. Wride
9	St. Ives,	S. Shaw (Thomas)
10.	Birmingham,	S. Blair, Wright
11	Borſlem,	S. Warwick
12	Macclesfield,	S. Story
13	Stockport	S. Roberts

14. Mancheſter,

14	Mancheſter,	S. Cuſſens, Corbet
15	Cheſter,	S. Rodda
16	Liverpool,	S. Boon, Hopper
17	Bolton,	S. Robertſhaw
18	Coln,	S. Lee, Harper
19	Leiceſter,	S. Eaſton
20	Nottingham,	S. Hern,
21	Sheffield,	S. Mather, Gibbon, Briſco
22	Grimſby,	S. Butterfield,
23	Gainſborough,	S. Ellis, Mowat
24	Epworth,	S. Longley
25	Leeds,	S. Taylor, Shaw, Snowden
26	Birſtal,	S. Goodwin
27	Dewſbury,	S. Greenwood
28	Huddersfield,	S. Booth
29	Bradforth,	S. Collins
30	Hallifax,	S. Croſby
31	Kighley,	S. Bradford
32	York,	S. Rutherford
33	Hull,	S. Swan
34	Scarborough,	S. Mill
35	Yarm,	S. Thompſon (Joſ.)
36	The Dales,	S. Watſon
37	Sunderland,	S. Wood, Thom
38	Newcaſtle,	S. Inglis
39	Ireland,	S. Jackſon, Price, Brown (Geo.) Joyce, Dinnen

Q. 11. How are the other eighteen to be provided for, namely: S. Williams, Scott, Beanland, Peacock, Crook, Coſterdine, Brown (Iſaac) Simpſon, Percival, Hunter, Senr. Watkinſon, M'Allum, Atkins, Moon 6l. Moore, Kane, Rennick, Weſt, Condy.

A. Partly out of the Yearly Collection, and partly out of the Preachers' Fund.

N. B. The Money for them all, except the five laſt, will be lodged in the Hands of Mr. Atlay: the Money

Money for the five laſt, in the hands of Mr. James Rogers.

Q. 11. What Numbers are in the Societies?

A. As follows:

1	London	2517	35	Grimſby	480
2	Suſſex	217	36	Horncaſtle	582
3	Kent	400	37	Gainſborough	745
4	Colcheſter	184	38	Epworth	644
5	Norwich	600	39	Leeds	2384
6	Lynn	237	40	Birſtal	1043
7	Bedford	264	41	Dewſbury	925
8	Northampton	350	42	Huddersfield	800
9	Oxfordſhire	500	43	Hallifax	1000
10	Gloceſter	647	44	Bradforth	1146
11	Sarum	430	45	Kighley	1100
12	Bradford	1193	46	Whitehaven	227
13	Briſtol	1600	47	Iſle of Man	2433
14	Taunton	180	48	York	890
15	Devon	442	49	Hull	900
16	Plymouth	483	50	Scarborough	700
17	St. Auſtle	816	51	Whitby	536
18	Redruth	1404	52	Thirſk	667
19	St. Ives	1292	53	Yarm	512
20	Pembroke	186	54	The Dales	805
21	Glamorgan	209	55	Sunderland	1076
22	Brecon	100	56	Newcaſtle	1063
23	Birmingham	1010	57	Berwick	80
24	Borſlem	780	58	Edinburgh	219
25	Macclesfield	922	59	Dundee	134
26	Mancheſter	2460	60	Aberdeen	324
27	Cheſter	700	61	Jerſey	136
28	Liverpool	655	62	Guernſey	42
29	Bolton	650	63	Dublin	900
30	Coln	1500	64	Waterford	300
31	Leiceſter	674	65	Cork	800
32	Nottingham	700	66	Limerick	266
33	Derby	366	67	Caſtlebar	303
34	Sheffield	1550	68	Athlone	600

69 Sligo

69	Sligo	391	75	Liſleen	950
70	Ballyconnell	636	76	Londonderry	700
71	Clones	929	77	Belfaſt	420
73	Inniſkillen	1400	78	Liſburn	550
74	Charlemount	1200			
		Total in Europe,			58150

AMERICA.

Portſmouth,	Whites	330
	Blacks	26
Suſſex,	Whites	416
	Blacks	72
Brunſwick,	Whites	305
	Blacks	59
Amelia,	Whites	382
	Blacks	30
Mecklenburgh	Whites	392
	Blacks	37
Bedford,	Whites	524
	Blacks	16
Orange,	Whites	374
	Blacks	75
Williamſburgh	Whites	167
	Blacks	11
Alleghany,	Whites	350
	Blacks	18
Berkeley,	Whites	140
	Blacks	26
Redſtone,		523
Fairfax,		260
Lancaſter,		174
Frederick,	Whites	390
	Blacks	32
Calvert,	Whites	295
	Blacks	316
Baltimore,	Whites	655
	Blacks	111
Little York,		136

Kent,

Kent,		1013
Talbot,	Whites	632
	Blacks	832
Dorſet,		719
Somerſet,		220
Annameſſex,	Whites	317
	Blacks	33
Northampton,	Whites	151
	Blacks	9
Caroline,	Whites	657
	Blacks	243
Dover,	Whites	690
	Blacks	158
Philadelphia,		498
Georgia,		78
Charleſton,	Whites	35
	Blacks	23
Santee,		75
Pee-Dee,	Whites	285
	Blacks	10
Broad River,		200
Saliſbury,	Whites	327
	Blacks	10
Yadkin,	Whites	426
	Blacks	11
Holſtein,		250
Guilford,	Whites	400
	Blacks	10
Halifax,	Whites	324
	Blacks	14
Newhope,	Whites	192
	Blacks	3
Tar River,	Whites	607
	Blacks	42
New River,	Whites	500
	Blacks	72
Roan Oak,		474
Caſwell,		153

Bertie,	Whites	405
	Blacks	58
Camden and Banks,		257
Weſt Jerſey		492
Trenton,		352
Eaſt Jerſey,		365
New-York,	Whites	178
	Blacks	25
Long-Iſland,	Whites	146
	Blacks	8
Newark,		50
Nova Scotia,		510
Newfoundland,		100
Antigua,	Whites	10
	Blacks	1559
Total in America,		21450
Total in Europe,		58150
Total in Europe and America,		79600

Q. 12. What is the Kingſwood Collection?

A. 685l. 7s. 10d.

Q. 13. What Children are admitted this Year?

A. ——— Morgan, Samuel Barry, Lawrence Kane.

Q. 14. What can we allow the Daughters of the Preachers?

A. Hannah Roberts, 6l. the ſecond year. Ann Watkinſon, 6l. the ſecond Year.

Q. 15. What is contributed to the Preachers' Fund?

A. 365l. 8s. 2d.

Q. 16. What is allowed out of it?

A. Thomas Weſtell,	£30	0	
William Whitacre,	20	0	
John Bredin,	12	0	
Matthew Lowes,	5	5	
Thomas Hanſon,	12	0	John

John Furze,	£12	0
Henry Foſter,	12	0
John Watſon, Junr.	12	0
John Mealy,	12	0
Ann Morgan,	24	0
Lucy Burke,	12	0
Mary Pennington,	20	0
Elizabeth Shorter,	10	0
Catherine Garnet,	12	0
Elizabeth Dillon,	5	0
Tabitha Norris,	5	0
Margaret Payne,	12	0
Sarah Barry,	24	0
Sarah Naylor,	10	0
Elizabeth Oldham,	12	0
Sarah Hoſmer,	10	0
Sarah Mitchell,	24	0
In all,	£307	5

Q. 17. What is contributed for the yearly Expences?

A. 917l. 13s. 8d.

Q. 18. How was it expended?

A. Laſt Year's Contingencies,	l. 167	5	6
Preſent Year's Contingencies,	100	0	0
Law,	84	8	0
Sending out Preachers in Great-Britain and Ireland,	25	15	0
Preachers' Neceſſities,	540	5	2
In all,	£917	13	8

Q. 19. What Houſes are to be built this Year?

A. One at Gloceſter, Froome, Trowbridge, St. Auſtle, Probus, Wolverhampton, Alnwick, Glaſgow, Kinſale, Caſtlebar, Aughrim, Cloughagady, Ballynamallard, Killydart, Armagh, Dungannon, and Portaferry.

Q. 20.

Q. 20. Does the *General Deed* require any Alteration in the Mode of ſettling our Preaching-Houſes?

A. None, except the Inſertion of the Phraſe, "The Conference of the People called Methodiſts, as eſtabliſhed by a Deed-Poll of the ſaid J. Weſley, under his Hand and Seal, bearing Date the 28th Day of February, in the Year 1784, and enrolled in his Majeſty's High Court of Chancery, and no others," inſtead of the Phraſe, "The Conference of the People called Methodiſts, in London, Briſtol, or Leeds, and no others."

Q. 21. Is there any further Direction to be given, to ſecure the proper Settlement of our Preaching-Houſes?

A. Let no Aſſiſtant make, or ſuffer to be made, in his reſpective Circuit, a Collection for any Preaching-Houſe, till every Step be previouſly taken to ſecure it on the Conference-Plan, by a Truſt-Deed, a Bond, or ſufficient Articles of Agreement.

Q. 22. Directions are given in the Minutes concerning the Windows, &c. of Preaching-Houſes: Have thoſe Directions been obſerved?

A. In ſome Places they have; in others, not at all, particularly with regard to the Windows, Doors, Pews, and the dividing of the Men from the Women.

Q. 23. Shall we inſiſt on the Obſervance of theſe Directions for the Time to come, or no?

A. We will permit none to collect for any future Building, unleſs Security be firſt given to obſerve the Rules laid down in the large Minutes.

Q. 24. When and where is the next Conference to be held?

A. At Mancheſter, on the laſt Tueſday in next July. And all ſucceeding Conferences are to be held in the following Order, viz.——1ſt. in London; 2dly, in Leeds; 3dly, in Briſtol; 4thly, in Mancheſter.

Aug.

Aug. 30, 1785.

Of Separation from the Church.

1. Ever ſince I returned from America, it has been warmly affirmed, "You ſeparate from the Church." I would conſider, How far, and in what Senſe, this Aſſertion is true.

2. Whether you mean by that Term the Building ſo called, or the Congregation, it is plain I do not ſeparate from either: For wherever I am, I go to the Church, and join with the Congregation.

3. Yet it is true that I have in ſome Reſpects varied, tho' not from the Doctrines, yet from the Diſcipline of the Church of England; altho' not willingly, but by Conſtraint. For inſtance: Above Forty Years ago I began *Preaching in the Fields*; and that for Two Reaſons—Firſt, I was not ſuffered to preach in the Churches: Secondly, No Pariſh Church in *London* or *Weſtminſter* could contain the Congregation.

4. About the ſame Time ſeveral Perſons who were deſirous to ſave their Souls, prayed me to meet them apart from the great Congregation. Theſe little Companies (*Societies* they were called) gradually ſpread through the Three Kingdoms. And in many Places they built Houſes in which they met, and wherein I and my *Brethren* preached. For a few young Men, one after another, deſired to ſerve me, as *Sons in the Goſpel.*

5. Some Time after, Mr. *Deleznot*, a Clergyman, deſired me to *officiate at his Chapel*, in Wapping. There I read Prayers, and preached, and adminiſtered the Lord's Supper, to a Part of the Society. The Reſt communicated either at St. *Paul*'s, or at their ſeveral Pariſh Churches. Meantime, I endeavoured to watch over all their Souls, as one that *was to give an Account*; and to aſſign to each of my Fellow-Labourers the Part wherein I judged he might be moſt uſeful.

6. When

6. When these were multiplied, I gave them an Invitation to meet me together in my House at *London*: That we might consider, in what Manner we could most effectually *save our own Souls*, and *them that heard us*. This we called, *a Conference* (meaning thereby, *the Persons*, not *the Conversation* they had.) At first I desired all the Preachers to meet me; but afterwards only a select Number.

7. Some Years after, we were strongly importuned by our Brethren in *America*, to "Come over and help them." Several Preachers willingly offered themselves for the Service; and several went from Time to Time. God blessed their Labours in an uncommon Manner. Many Sinners were converted to God: And many Societies formed, under the same Rules as were observed in *England*: Insomuch, that at present the *American* Societies contain more than Eighteen Thousand Members.

8. But since the late Revolution in *North America*, these have been in great Distress. The Clergy having no Sustenance, either from *England*, or from the *American* States, have been obliged almost universally to leave the Country, and seek their Food elsewhere. Hence those who had been Members of the Church, had none either to administer the Lord's Supper, or to baptize their Children. They applied to *England* over and over: But it was to no Purpose. Judging this to be a Case of real Necessity, I took a step, which for Peace and Quietness, I had refrained from taking for many Years: I exercised that Power, which I am fully persuaded the Great Shepherd and Bishop of the Church has given me. I appointed three of our Labourers to go and help them by not only preaching the Word of God, but likewise administring the Lord's Supper and baptizing their Children, throughout that vast Tract of Land, a thousand Miles long, and some hundreds Broad.

3. These

3. Theſe are the Steps. which not of Choice but Neceſſity, I have ſlowly and deliberately taken. If any one is pleaſed to call this *ſeparating from the Church*, he may. But the Law of *England* does not call it ſo; nor can any one properly be ſaid ſo to do, unleſs out of Conſcience he refuſes to join in the Service, and partake of the Sacraments adminiſtered therein.

CAMELFORD,
Auguſt 30, 1785. JOHN WESLEY.

After Dr. Coke's return from *America*, many of our Friends begg'd I would conſider the Caſe of *Scotland*, where we had been labouring ſo many Years, and had ſeen ſo little Fruit of our Labours. Multitudes indeed have ſet out well, but they were ſoon turned out of the Way: chiefly by their Miniſters either diſputing againſt the Truth, or refuſing to admit them to the Lord's Supper, yea or to baptize their Children, unleſs they would promiſe to have no Fellowſhip with the *Methodiſts*. Many who did ſo, ſoon loſt all they had gained, and became more the Children of Hell than before. To prevent this, I at length conſented to take the ſame Step with regard to *Scotland*, which I had done with regard to *America*. But this is not a Separation from the Church at all. Not from the Church of *Scotland*, for we were never connected therewith, any further than we are now: not from the Church of *England*, for this is not concern'd in the Steps which are taken in *Scotland*. Whatever then is done either in *America* or *Scotland*, is no Separation from the Church of *England*. I have no thought of this: I have many Objections againſt it. It is a totally different Caſe.

"But for all this, is it not poſſible there may be ſuch a ſeparation after you are dead?" Undoubtedly it is. But what I ſaid at our firſt Conference above forty Years ago, I ſay ſtill, "I dare not omit doing what good

good I can while I live, for fear of Evils that may follow when I am dead."

Briſtol, July 22, 1786.

Perhaps there is one Part of what I wrote ſome Time ſince which requires a little further Explanation. In what Caſes do we allow of Service in Church Hours? I anſwer

1. When the Miniſter is a notoriouſly wicked Man.

2. When he preaches Arian, or any equally pernicious Doctrine.

3. When there are not Churches in the Town ſufficient to contain half the People: And

4. When there is no Church at all within two or three Miles. And we adviſe every one who preaches in the Church-Hours to read the Pſalms and Leſſons with Part of the Church Prayers: Becauſe we apprehend this will endear the Church Service to our Brethren, who probably would be prejudiced againſt it, if they heard none but extemporary Prayer.

A few little Advices I would add to the Preachers.

I adviſe the Aſſiſtants

1. To re-eſtabliſh Morning Preaching, in all large Towns, at leaſt.

2. To exert themſelves in reſtoring the Bands.

3. And the Select Societies.

4. Change both a General and Particular Steward in each Circuit:

I adviſe all the Preachers.

1. Always to conclude the Service in about an Hour.

2. Never ſcream.

3. Never lean upon, or beat the Bible.

4. Wherever you preach, meet the Society.

5. Do

5. Do not, without the utmoſt Neceſſity, go Home at Night.

6. Never take Part againſt the Aſſiſtant.

7. Never preach a Funeral Sermon, but for an eminently holy Perſon: Nor then, without conſulting the Aſſiſtant. Preach none for hire. Beware of Panegyric, particularly in London.

8. Have Love-Feaſts in more Places.

9. Introduce no new Tunes. See that none ſing too ſlow, and the Women ſing their Parts. Exhort all to ſing, and all to ſtand at Singing, as well as to kneel at Prayers.

10. Let none repeat the laſt Line, unleſs the Preacher does.

11. Inform the Leaders, that every Aſſiſtant is to change both the Stewards and Leaders when he ſees good. And that no Leader has Power to put any Perſon either into or out of the Society.

JOHN WESLEY.

Aug. 1, 1786.